

North Coast

POP 1 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- » Platano Loco (p217)
- » One Ten Thai (p217)
- » Heladería de Lares (p211)
- » Villa Dorada d'Alberto Seafood Restaurant (p203)
- » Eclipse (p214)

Best Places to Stay

- » Casa Grande Mountain Retreat (p208)
- » Punta Maracayo Hotel (p208)
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- » Villa Montaña (p212)
- » Courtyard by Marriot Aguadilla (p216)

Why Go?

Wedged between the vine-tangled crags of karst country and the spectacular fury of the Atlantic Coast, this region's charms await those who explore winding, tree-lined byways. It's a nearby escape from the island's overdevelopment, a place to hike through caves, patronize roadside food trucks and comb the beach to see what the tides have brought in. The sights here have neither the untouched exotic natural spectacle of El Yunque nor the rustic allure of the central mountains, but this quick escape has more than enough DIY adventures for travelers with no fixed timetable.

Learn to surf in less-crowded waters, gape at the world's largest radio telescope or ride some of Puerto Rico's most bicycle-friendly roads: the north coast has loads of opportunity to see another side of Puerto Rico – and still make your dinner reservation in San Juan.

When to Go

Outside of the island's rainy months (late summer to early fall), the north coast is generally sunny, although big Atlantic storms can come barreling out of nowhere to whip the waves into a white-capped frenzy. Inland, the humidity increases, but on the shore the 80°F temperatures aren't at all oppressive. Since there's only a difference of a few degrees between the coldest month, January, and the warmest, August, the region offers consistently sunny, breezy days year-round. Crowds are generally biggest during winter (December through March) on the US mainland.



ATLANTIC OCEAN



North Coast Highlights

- 1 Surf the storied waves at **Playa Jobsos** (p212)
- 2 Put a mountain-sized ear to the heavens at **Observatorio de Arecibo** (p206)
- 3 Trot along in the sand and snorkel with **Tropical Trail Rides** (p212)
- 4 Cruise on a bicycle past the surfers carving the waves at **Isabela** (p211)

- 5 Picnic near the most spectacularly rough north coast beach, **Playa Mar Chiquita** (p204)

- 6 Embark on a DIY cave hike at the lonely **Bosque Estatal de Guajataca** (p210)

- 7 Sink into a decadent fried plantain and pork sandwich at **Plantano Loco** in Aguadilla (p217)